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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,635	11/08/2001	Sam S. Vacek	VAC-1001-US	1869

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EXAMINER

VARNER, STEVE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/006,635

Applicant(s)

VACEK, SAM S.

Examiner

Steve M Varner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim 1 is cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2, 4-6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shingaki.

Regarding claim 5, Roberts et al. shows at least one outer wall, an internal wall section (1b) and an external wall section (1a) displaced a predetermined distance from and juxtaposed with the internal wall section (1b). Roberts et al. shows an airflow passage between the internal wall section (1b) and the external wall section (1a) and an air circulation system (59).

The air circulation system creates a positive air pressure in at least a portion of the structure. (Fig. 1A, 1B, 1C, 18A)

Regarding claim 2, Roberts et al. shows the air provided is conditioned (Col. 1, Line 45-55).

Regarding claim 4, Roberts et al. shows a roof or ceiling. (Fig. 18A)

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Regarding claim 6, Roberts et al. shows the air circulation system is placed outside the structure with an air conduit supplying air from the air circulation system to the air flow passage. (Fig. 18A)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. in view of Ojala.

Regarding claims 7-13, Roberts et al. shows the basic claimed structure. Roberts et al. shows a plurality of outer walls and a ceiling or roof to form an enclosed structure. Roberts et al. does not show the external wall section including an insulating layer, a weather-resistant layer outside of the insulating layer, a sheath inside the insulating layer, the internal section including a liquid barrier, a wall framing system, a first sheathing between the liquid barrier and the wall framing system, and a second sheathing inside of the wall framing system.

Ojala shows the external wall section (88) including an insulating layer (94) and a weather-resistant layer outside of the insulating layer (88). Ojala shows a sheath (70) inside the insulating layer (88). Ojala shows the internal section (60) including a liquid barrier (92), and a wall framing system (60), A first sheathing between the liquid barrier

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and the wall framing system, and a second sheathing inside of the wall framing system are well known in the art. (Fig. 3, 4)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to use the wall system as in Ojala and known in the art in the structure of Roberts et al. The wall system of Ojala protects from heat, cold, and moisture as well as gives structural support. These features would be obvious in the structure of Roberts et al to protect from heat, cold, moisture, and give the room support.

Claims 14-25. are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. in view of Tedman et al.

Regarding claims 14-19, Roberts et al. shows the basic claimed structure. Roberts et al. does not show a moisture sensor in the airflow passage with a controller and a circuit to interface with the sensor, and a processor. Tedman et al. shows a moisture sensor in the airflow passage with a controller (Abstract). Interfacing circuits and a processor are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to use the system of Tedman to control the humidity in the airflow passage in Roberts et al. This would expedite drying.

Roberts et al. shows positive pressure in the enclosed structure. (Fig. 18A)

Regarding claims 20-25, the claimed methods are the obvious method for inhibiting moisture accumulation using Robert et al.'s modified modular wall and ceiling system

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Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 is allowable for an attic that is in air communication with the airflow passage. (Fig. 1)

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Moras shows a composite vapor barrier panel. Tuggle shows a dryer vent connection. Shingaki shows an air cycle houses and house ventilation system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve M Varner whose telephone number is 703 308-1894. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl D Friedman can be reached on 703 308-0839. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305-7687 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1113.

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December 10, 2003



Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600